

Remarks/Arguments:

Introduction

Claims 1-18 and 21-25 are pending. Claims 1, 16, 18 and 24 have been amended to obviate any concerns the Examiner may have had under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

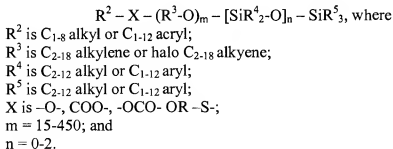
Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is regarded as the invention. The amended claims obviate the Section 112 rejections. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-11, 14, 18, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Application Publication JP 6-57112 A to Nakagawa et al. (hereinafter "Nakagawa"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Component B, the plasticizer of Nakagawa, requires only one end be alkylsilyl capped, as follows



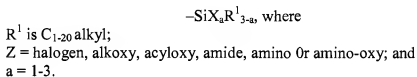
Thus, while one side of the plasticizer, i.e., the right hand side, may be alkylsilyl capped, the other side, i.e., the left hand side, is clearly not alkylsilyl capped. Thus, the

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compound B of Nakagawa is not a alkylsilyl capped polymer as presently defined by independent claims 1, 14, 18 and 24.

Further, the composition of Nakagawa must also contain a compound A of the following formula:



Thus, the compound A of Nakagawa is not a alkoxysilyl capped polymer as presently defined by independent claims 1, 14, 18 and 24.

Therefore, Nakagawa fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 14, 18 and 24. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 1, 14, 18 and 24, and all claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 8, 11-13, 15-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over either Nakagawa in view of Japanese Application Publication JP 62-39646 A to Iwahara et al. (hereinafter "Iwahara"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Component B of Iwahara must include at least two hydroxyl or hydrolyzable groups. (Iwahara, page 16, 1st full paragraph). In contrast, the plasticizer as set forth in independent claims 1, 16, 18 and 24 is a trialkylsilyl capped plasticizer. Further, such a claimed trialkylsilyl capped plasticizer is not disclosed throughout the numerous examples of Component B provided by Iwahara at pages 16-21.

Therefore, Iwahara fails to cure the deficiencies of Nakagawa. Thus, claims 8, 11-13, 15-18 and 21-25 are patentably distinct over Nakagawa and Iwahara, individually or in

combination. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 1, 16, 18 and 24, and all claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakagawa and Iwahara in further view of EP 0 106 330 A1 to Toshifumi et al. (hereinafter "Toshifumi"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Toshifumi is cited by the examiner for its alleged teaching regarding polyethylene and polypropylene substrates. Toshifumi, however, fails to cure the deficiencies of Nakagawa and/or Iwahara. To be of any use to the examiner Nakagawa and/or Iwahara would have to be modified to include the trialkylsilyl capped plasticizer of the present invention.

Nakagawa, however, is void of any teachings or suggestions to the use of a trialkylsilyl capped plasticizer and Iwahara teaches away from the use of a trialkylsilyl capped plasticizer. For example, Iwahara specifically teaches that insufficient hydroxyl or hydrolysable groups in its Component B are unacceptable as an adhesive composition, as follows:

As for the number of hydroxyl groups or hydrolysable groups on the silicon atoms in the silicon compound (B)...If there are too few groups, the ... crosslinking density is low. This results in a deterioration in retention strength and adhesive properties. (Iwahara, page 23, 3rd full paragraph).

Thus, Iwahara clearly teaches away from the present invention, and any attempt to so modify its teachings would not result in a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Therefore, Nakagawa, Iwahara and Toshifumi, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention as presently defined by independent claims 1, 14, 16, 18 and 24. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 1, 14, 16, 18 and 24, and all claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

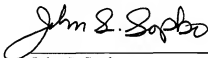
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Summary

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14, 16, 18 and 24, and all claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number given below. All correspondence should continued to be directed to the address of record.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John S. Sopko", is written over a horizontal line.

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